

Remarks

A. Pending Claims

Claims 2039-2068, 2070-2107, 2109-2116, and 5396-5403 are pending. Claims 2087 and 5403 have been amended. The amendments to the claims correct typographical errors and/or clarify the claims.

B. Provisional Double Patenting Rejection

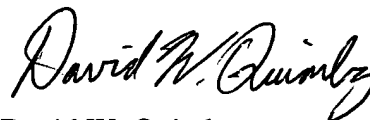
The Examiner provisionally rejected claims 2039-2068, 2070-2107, 2109-2116, and 5396-5403 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of copending Application Nos. 09/840,937; 09/840,130; 09/841,131 (U.S. Pat. No. 6,609,570); 09/841,170; 09/841,195; 09/841,283; 09/841,285; 09/841,286; 09/841,287; 09/841,288; 09/841,291 (U.S. Pat. No. 6,607,033); 09/841,294; 09/841,297 (U.S. Pat. No. 6,591,906); 09/841,300; 09/841,303; 09/841,306; 09/841,308; 09/841,429; 09/841,431; 09/841,432 (U.S. Pat. No. 6,688,387); 09/841,434; 09/841,438 (U.S. Pat. No. 6,581,684); 09/841,439; 09/841,441; 09/841,443 (U.S. Pat. No. 6,588,503); 09/841,444; 09/841,445; 09/841,449; 09/841,488; 09/841,490; 09/841,495 (U.S. Pat. No. 6,588,504); 09/841,500 (U.S. Pat. No. 6,591,907); 09/841,502; 09/841,638; and 09/841,639. Applicant does not believe that a terminal disclaimer is needed for the present application and the above-noted applications and patents. To expedite the case, however, a terminal disclaimer for the applications and patents is provided as a separate document.

C. Additional Remarks

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fees are due in association with the filing of this document. If an extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. If any fees are required or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5659-02200/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,



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